

Annual Bio-Gas Seminar held in New Delhi recently, it was stated by one of the delegates that 2,000 MW power can be generated from cow-dung;

- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government are importing cow-dung from Holland; and
- (d) if so, the usage, thereof and the amount incurred on its import ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the Annual Biogas Seminar organised by a non-government organisation (NGO), namely Action for Food Production (AFPRO) on March 20-22, 1997 at New Delhi, the 'Biogas Network Journal', volume 2 (1997) was circulated, which contained an article entitled, "Need for a Dung Policy". In this article, it was stated that the conversion into fuel of the entire cattle dung generated in the country would be equivalent to 2000 MW of power. This estimate is theoretical and does not take into account that cattle dung is used in our country mainly as a source of manure and domestic fuel and not for the generation of electrical power.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Cow dung has not been imported from the Netherlands (Holland) during the last three years as per the Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India - Volume II brought out by the Directorate Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta.

[Translation]

#### Markets for Handloom Weavers

6537. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up more markets in the entire country for handloom weavers under Market Development Assistance Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the State-wise number of these markets proposed to be set up during 1996-97 and 1997-98 and the locations thereof; and
- (d) the amount earmarked for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) No Sir. The Government does not set up Market for handloom weavers under Market Development Assistance Scheme.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Reduction of Import Duty on Polyurethane

6538. PROF P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the small scale sector using natural rubber as raw material is facing serious crisis due to reduction in import duty on polyurethane for manufacturing foam;

(b) if so, whether this will further reduce the consumption of natural rubber resulting in reduction of its demand; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Imposition of Anti-Dumping Duty on Unbleached Cotton Fabrics by EU

6539. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the European Union has decided to impose anti-dumping duty on Indian unbleached cotton fabrics;

(b) if so, whether European Union is coming to India to probe the question of imposing of anti-dumping duty on bedlinen also;

(c) if so, whether any efforts have been made by the Government to protect these fabrics from the proposed anti-dumping duties of the European Union; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The European Union has imposed provisional anti-dumping duties on the imports of unbleached cotton fabrics originating in China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Turkey. Final determination, however, is awaited.

(b) An anti-dumping investigation has also been initiated by the European Union against exports of bed linen from various countries including India and as per normal practice they may conduct verification of information furnished by exporters/producers.

(c) and (d) The Government has been providing all